Via email received 8/19/12

A number of recent reports that many, if not most, jobs do **not** require a college degree.

Bottom line: graduating more college students does **not** produce more college-degree jobs. If matching college grads to jobs was the goal for public funding of education, these data suggest we should **decrease** the number of college grads to get a good match. Otherwise, public funding is simply increasing costs of education, without any increase in college-level jobs.

Begin forwarded message:

'.. according to a study done by the *Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University* ..., ***only 60 percent of college graduates are in jobs that require a college degree***.'
<http://www.mlive.com/jobs/index.ssf/2011/05/40_percent_of_college_grads_end_up_settl.html>

Accord:

'In 2000, ... about 75 percent of college graduates held a job that required a college degree. Today that's closer to 60 percent. "We are doing a great disservice by not admitting how bad it is for young people (to get a job)," Sum said.' <http://www.ecollegetimes.com/student-life/for-many-graduates-the-old-college-try-s-not-enough-1.2552891>

'But when it comes to Florida's jobs, ***more than 85 percent do not require a four-year degree***, according to data from the state's "*Workforce Estimating*" conference earlier this month.
<http://articles.sun-sentinel.com/2012-01-21/business/fl-bachelor-degree-florida-20120116_1_job-fairs-annual-openings-fort-lauderdale-job>

And, on another note, another perspective on why public funding of education needs radical reform:

Wagner's ***The Global Achievement Gap-Why Even Our Best Schools Don't Teach the New Survival Skills Our Children Need*** ... focuses on the inadequacy of teacher training & the current teaching culture. 2 Basic problems - education schools are of generally poor quality & don't teach what is needed in this century, and we aren't recruiting the best & brightest to teach. <http://schoolchange.org/>

As Wagner notes, putting more $ into the current system simply isn't going to improve results -- its the system that is a major problem.

I applaud efforts to look at outcomes, and reward success (as well as highlight failures), but I urge radical (root) tools to address the approximately 40% of our students that our system currently fails -- the roughly 40% that don't graduate from high school, and the roughly 40% of college grads for whom there are not college-level jobs.

Your constituent.

Mark Anderson

Mark Anderson

maanderson@aya.yale.edu

"... t*he authority of a thousand is not worth the humble reasoning of a single individua*l." Galileo